IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 2 and amend claim 1 as follows:

1(Amended). An electrochemical actuator comprising a high-conductivity conjugated polymer element having an electrical conductivity of ≥ 100 S/cm, wherein said element actuates by linear extension/contraction.

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are currently pending in the above-identified patent application, and claims 6-15 are subject to a restriction and/or election requirement. In the subject Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Keen (U.S. Patent No. 6,326,215), since the Examiner asserted that Keen notes the use of a conducting polymer as an electrochemical actuator in Col. 19, line 43 to Col. 20, line 8, comprising a high-conductivity conjugated polymer. The Examiner continued by stating that the high-conductivity conjugated polymer is prepared from a monomer selected from the group consisting of aniline, pyrrole, thiophene, phenylene vinylene, and derivatives thereof, where the derivatives comprise derivatives that generate high-conductivity conjugated polymers when polymerized. While specific electrical conductivity and linear expansion are not noted, the Examiner continues, as the described structure yields a high-conductivity conjugated polymer, and as the structure as claimed is read on by Keen, such conductivity and expansion requirements are inherently met by Keen. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner concerning this ground of rejection for the reasons to be set forth hereinbelow.

The Examiner next rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsushita (JP 2000-133854), since the Examiner asserted that Matsushita shows an electrochemical actuator comprising a high-conductivity conjugated polymer having an electrical conductivity of ≥ 100 S/cm, where said electrochemical actuator actuates by linear extension/contraction. The Examiner continued by stating the high-conductivity conjugated polymer is prepared from a monomer selected from the group consisting of aniline, pyrrole, thiophene,